

**Montana Department of Military Affairs  
Disaster & Emergency Services Division  
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for August 22, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

***Wildfires of 2003***

Attention \* - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

**I. Background Information:**

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

**II. Current Montana Fire Situation: (as reported to NRCG August 21, 2003 (2400)**

A. Large Fires      *Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5*  
   *National Preparedness Level = 5*

**93 West Area Command** (Greenhoe) is managing the following fires:

1. Fish Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) – 24,220 acres, 0% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.
2. Beaver Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Frye) – 18,847 acres, 30% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula.
3. Black Mountain 2 – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Gelobter) – 6,750 acres, 55% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula.
4. Cherry Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Dietrich) – 4,067 acres, 72% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls.

**Central Montana Area Command** (Rounsaville) is managing the following fires:

5. Lincoln Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) – 32,145 acres, 8% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.
6. Winslow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Blume) – 10,115 acres, 25% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview.
7. Rough Draw Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) – 2,588 acres, 15% contained, 8 miles S of Livingston.
8. Cathedral Peak – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) – 1,110 acres, 3% contained, 10 miles S of Nye.
9. Burnt Ridge Sheep Camp Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hendricks) – 1,614 acres, 39% contained, 12 miles SE of Neihart.

**Northwest Area Command** (Mann) is managing the following large fires:

10. Crazy Horse – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Vail) – 10,092 acres, 30% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.
11. Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 44,003 acres, 50% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.
12. Beta Lake/Doris Ridge – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 235 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles S of Hungry Horse.
13. Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 542 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.
14. Wedge Canyon – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Hart) – 41,887 acres, 60% contained, 20 miles E of Eureka.
15. Trapper Creek Complex – 25,098 acres, 65% contained, This complex comprised of 4 fires is located 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.
16. Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath). This 25,454 acre lightning caused Wildland Fire Use complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell, in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

**93 East Area Command** (Ribar) is managing the following fires:

17. Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) – 20,877 acres, 30% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.
18. Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Philbin) – 7,675 acres, 15% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.
19. Boles Meadow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 4,050 acres, 75% contained, 25 miles NE of Missoula.
20. Mineral/Primm – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) – 16,000 acres, 20% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.
21. Strawberry Mountain – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Berndt) - 1,021 acres, 80% contained, 27 miles SE of Missoula.

**Eastern Montana Zone MAC**

22. Hobble – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 38,320 acres, 95% contained, 6 miles E of Greycliff.
23. Craig II – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Stam) – 9,180 acres, 90% contained, 10 miles E of Lane Deer.
24. Eastern Montana Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Walker) – This complex consists of 3 fires for a total of 16,703 acres, 83% contained, located 24 miles W of Broadus.
25. Windmill Complex – Type 2 Team Incident Management Team (Szczepanik) – 30,020 acres, 80% contained, 17 miles E of Hardin.
26. Ball Creek – 300 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles E of Bigfork.
27. Blackfoot Lake – 250 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SSE of Hungry Horse.
28. Smith Creek – 742 acres, 100% contained, 10 miles S of Forsyth.

B. Initial Attack *Heavy attack – 112 new fires, 18,507 acres*

C. **State Forecast For Montana**

***Red Flag Warnings have been issued for the following zones: 102,103,108-111,112-118, 123-133.***

***Fire Weather Watches have been issued for the following zones: 119-122.***

**WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE**

***430 AM MDT FRI AUG 22 2003***

***TODAY..MOSTLY CLOUDY,ISOLATED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. HIGHS 80 TO 90.***

***TONIGHT..MOSTLY CLOUDY, A CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. LOWS 50 TO 60.***

***SATURDAY..PARTLY CLOUDY WITH A SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND***

***THUNDERSTORMS. HIGHS 72 TO 82.***

**CENTRAL MONTANA**

***TODAY..MOSTLY CLOUDY. ISOLATED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. HIGHS IN THE LOWER 80S TO LOWER 90S.***

***TONIGHT..PARTLY CLOUDY. CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. LOWS IN THE 50S.***

***SATURDAY..PARTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS IN THE LOWER 70S TO MID 80S.***

**SOUTHWEST MONTANA**

***TODAY..MOSTLY CLOUDY. ISOLATED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS IN THE MORNING THEN SCATTERED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS IN THE AFTERNOON. HIGHS IN THE MID 70S TO UPPER 80S.***

***TONIGHT..MOSTLY CLOUDY. CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. LOWS***

***IN THE MID 40S TO MID 50S.***

***SATURDAY..PARTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. HIGHS IN THE UPPER 60S TO LOWER 80S.***

**EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA**

***TODAY..PARTLY CLOUDY AND HOT. A SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. HIGHS IN THE MID TO UPPER 90S.***

***TONIGHT..MOSTLY CLOUDY NORTH..PARTLY CLOUDY SOUTH. A CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS. LOWS UPPER 50S TO MID 60S.***

***SATURDAY..PARTLY CLOUDY WITH A SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS WEST. HIGHS UPPER 80S TO LOWER 90S.***

**III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:**

***The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:***

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03

Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03

#### **IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:**

##### **State and National Guard Assistance:**

Current Army National Guard Resources Assistance		
AIRCRAFT MODULES	EQUIPMENT	PERSONNEL
3 UH-60S	51 HMMVs	
	3 HEMTTs (Fuelers)	
	4 1 ¼ TRAILER	
	8 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	
	5 M1009 CONTACT TRUCK	
	2 HEMTT (Wrecker)	
<b><i>3 Aircraft Modules Assigned</i></b>	<b><i>73 HVY Equipment Assigned</i></b>	<b><i>261 Soldiers Assigned</i></b>

Current Air National Guard Resources Assistance		
AIRCRAFT MODULES	EQUIPMENT	PERSONNEL
	1 7-ton truck	
	1 SUV	
	1 25' Flatbed trailer	
	13 Pickups	
	2 Vans	
	1 1-ton Flatbed truck	
	<b><i>19 Equipment Units Assigned</i></b>	<b><i>53 Airmen Assigned</i></b>

##### **Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)**

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
  - Northwest Area Command
  - 93 West & 93 East Area Command
  - Central Command
  - Sweetgrass County

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

## **V. FEMA Grants:**

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

## **VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:**

*For the latest fire restrictions:*

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

*For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:*

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

*For the latest closures and evacuations:*

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations\\_road\\_closures](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures)